



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Impressions after six months

Captain Gonzalo A. Vargas
Commander, D Co 1st Bn 295th Inf.



We are striving for excellence in all we do, and reaching for higher levels of performance and of commitment to the organization and to one other. We are willing to deal with some difficult challenges and we have the courage to deal with those difficult situations.

Effective training is, as has always been, the Army's number one priority during peacetime. In order to be ready for a wartime mission, the unit needs to be trained. We are requested to perform as an active duty unit; but without the required resources, endeavoring into the mission can be quite a challenge itself.

Would I consider this experience as a positive one in terms of the progress of the unit? Definitely yes. All experiences received in this mobilization are positive. The cohesiveness between unit leaders and soldiers is nothing short of outstanding. As National Guard, we have shown that we can perform as an active unit. Without the required resources we demonstrated that in the event of national or international crisis or conflict we could be integrated into America's Army. We have shown that we are prepared for the duties and responsibilities of our federal and state missions. Our soldiers make that difference. □

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CH (CPT) Carlos Correa

Judgement Day

The Judgement Day is one of the most fascinating themes of the Bible to talk about. During bad times people start to speculate about the end of days. Others start looking at Nostradamus prophecies to "corroborate" the things that are happening.

During World War II, both Adolf Hitler and the United States used the writings of Nostradamus against each other. Prophecy in the Bible is not necessarily used to predict the future. The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 14:3 that the person who prophesizes is for "edification, exhortation and consolation." Prophecy has nothing to do with predicting the future.

But what about the Book of Revelation? Is it not *the* book about the end of days? The answer is *No*. Some reasons: 1) if it is a book about the last days, its recipients will not understand its message; and 2) the book was written in a language that the church will understand. This makes the book somewhat difficult to us to understand it.

Why Judgement Day is so fascinating for the Christian Church? In my own personal opinion, it is because the church wants sinners to be punished by God. If that is the main reason, I think that this is not fair. Why I think that? Because this shows our God as a vengeful one instead of the loving Father who wants His children to be saved.

As a preacher and in some way a theologian, I start thinking that Judgement Day is not the day when God will punish humanity for sins against Him. When Jesus died on the cross, He resolved the problem of evil, but not justice. Is in the resurrection of Jesus where God resolves the problem of justice because God made justice on the innocent.

The real message of Judgement Day is not that God will punish all wrongdoers. Judgement Day is not a day of confusion, but a day of justice. It will be a day of justice, for God will put all things in order. It will be the day when God will break all chains that enslave men. A day when God will clean the wounds of mistreated women. A day when God will satisfy the hunger of all those children in the world. On that day He will impose His Kingdom of Justice and Peace without using the sword, but love. In the Kingdom of God there will be no first nor last; all will be participants who will enjoy the same blessings of being safe and secure in His arms.

Judgement Day is not a day for panic, but a day for rejoicing for it will be the day that will bring justice and peace for all humanity.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." **Book of Revelation 21:4**

Recent Events

Recent Events

RETIREMENTS

Sixty-eight years' worth of military experience is quite a venerable figure to reckon. This impressive figure belongs to two top NCOs who dedicated themselves for more than 30 years each to mentor, lead and coach soldiers in both war and peacetime: 1st Sgt. Rafael Estades Cotto and Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Acosta. 1st Sgt. Estades, the first sergeant of Delta 1-295th, served 37 years, whereas Sgt. 1st Class Acosta, Leader of E 192nd's Team 108, served 31.

Both NCOs were duly recognized for their priceless contributions, first during a farewell dinner at The Olive Garden Restaurant in Fayetteville, on August 26, and during a posterior awards ceremony held in front of Bn HQs on August 28.

We salute them both and wish them Godspeed. Douglas MacArthur once said, quoting an old Army song, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

We're sure these two never will.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Edelmiro Hernández, and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Arocho, Bn's and Bde's, respectively, pose with the two honored NCOs during a recent farewell dinner in Fayetteville. 1st Sgt. Estades retires after 37 years; Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Acosta after 31. Both received the Army Commendation Medal.



Sgt. 1st Class Acosta is congratulated by 92nd SIB's Commander, Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero Corletto, during an awards ceremony on Aug. 28. He, as did 1st Sgt. Estades, received the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal then.

Field Training Exercise

High crawl, low crawl, foxholes, heat, dirt – all were present during the August 25-26 FTX conducted by companies Alpha and HHC 1st Bn 295th Inf. So was our photographer extraordinaire, "El Filósofo" Juan Ramón Fonseca, with his killer camera.



Spec. Randall Rodríguez, from HHC, shows off his marksmanship skills with the M-249 SAW while...



...his foxhole buddy, Sgt. Wilfredo Aquerón, equipped with the "good ole" MILES gear we remember from our Basic Training days, aims his M16A2 downrange.



This is the last alleged picture "El Filósofo" took while in the field. Legend has it that if you visit the FTX site late at night, among crickets and other sounds you can still hear the sonorous, tenor-like laughter of the one and only "Titan of the Plains."

Recent Events

AWARDS CEREMONIES



Maj. José A. Rivera Hernáiz, Bn XO; CWO4 Eliberto Colón, LNO at Diego García; and Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho, Personnel Actions NCO, became our newest awardees of the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal during the awards ceremony conducted on September 5. Likewise, sixteen other officers, NCOs, and soldiers were recognized with the Army Commendation Medal.

Special recognition was made to participants of the latest Special Forces' Qualification Course Phase IV, ROBIN SAGE exercise. For exceptional performance, Sgt. William Fontáñez, Spec. Elding Almodóvar, and Pvt. 1st Class José Cruz Pellot received the Army Achievement Medal.

Master Sgt. Harold Arroyo, Bn Opns NCO, and Sgt. 1st Class Díaz, from XVIII Abn Corps Arty G-3, received the 92nd SIB Coin from hands of Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero Corletto.

Congratulations to each and every one of our awardees on a job well done.



Brig. Gen. Roberto Marrero Corletto congratulates CWO4 Eliberto Colón on the "Chief's" award of the MSM. Chief Colón is the LNO responsible for boosting the morale of soldiers at Diego García. Pool tables, volleyball tournaments, calling cards – you name it – anything MWR-related is the Chief's work. Good job! Maj. Rivera Hernáiz is in the background.

.....
Sgt. Fonseca's latest masterpiece:

"Sir, the Battalion is Formed"



"TODO POR LA PATRIA"

HATS OFF FOR

MSM recipients:

Maj. José A. Rivera Hernáiz, Bn XO
CWO4 Eliberto Colón, LNO
Sgt. Luis Asencio Camacho, Pers Actions NCO

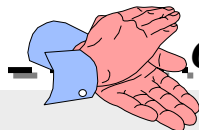
ARCOM recipients:

Capt. Carlos Correa, Bn Chaplain
Capt. Higinio Figueroa, Bn S-1
Capt. Omar Ruiz, Cdr A 1-295
1st Lt. Arnold Rivera, Team Ldr 59
2nd Lt. Ismael Ortiz, Commo Officer
Sgt. 1st Class Luis DeCasenave, Bn S-4 NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Robles, Asst Opns NCO
Sgt. 1st Class David Rodríguez, Team Ldr 80
Staff Sgt. Dalvin Loubriel, Asst Team Ldr 59
Staff Sgt. Israel Maldonado, Bn S-1 Asst NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Edwin Reyes, Asst Team Ldr 73
Sgt. Juan Fonseca, Public Affairs NCO
Sgt. William Fontáñez, Team 80
Sgt. Julio Gómez, Pers NCO
Sgt. Gabriel Serrano, Legal NCO
Sgt. José Madera, Commo NCO

AAM recipients:

Staff Sgt. Miguel Ortiz, Team Ldr 65
Sgt. José A. Ríos, Team 65
Sgt. José M. Santiago, Team 65
Sgt. Osvaldo Rodríguez, Team 65
Sgt. José Ruiz, Team 65
Sgt. Alexis Ortiz, Team 65
Sgt. William Fontáñez, Team 80
Sgt. Dionisio Flores, Team 73
Sgt. Delfin Sierra, Supply Sgt
Sgt. Jaime Morales, Team 80
Corp. José Delgado, S-4 NCO
Spec. Elding Almodóvar, HHC
Spec. Jorge Alcover, Team 59
Spec. José Burgos, Team 59
Spec. Carlos Maldonado, Team 59
Spec. Jaime Miranda, Team 59
Spec. Gustavo Rondón, Team 59
Spec. Carlos Torres, Team 59
Spec. Domingo Soto, Team 59
Spec. Carlos González, Team 73
Spec. Agapito Robles, Team 73
Spec. Juan J. Forastieri, Supply Spec.
Spec. Rafael Flores, Team 65
Spec. Osvaldo Irizarry, Team 65
Spec. Jeffrey Fana, Team 65
Spec. Edmundo Nieves, Team 65
Spec. Elliott Rivera, Team 80
Spec. Hiram Andino, Team 80
Spec. Francisco Muñoz Pauneto, Team 80
Pvt. 1st Class José Cruz Pellot, Team 59 *
Pvt. 1st Class Juan Viera, Team 59
Pvt. 1st Class Misael Izquierdo, Team 65
Pvt. 1st Class Luis M. Pérez, Team 80
Pvt. 2nd Class Gariel Jiménez, Team 80

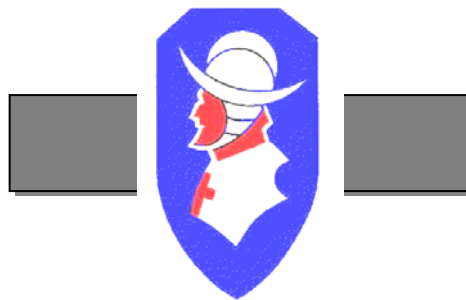
* Recognized twice



Congratulations!

1-295th Inf History Facts

This edition of *El Miliciano* is honored to present a special collaboration from Lt. Col. Baltazar “Bart” Soto, historian and advocate for the Puerto Rican soldier during the Korean War’s 50th Anniversary commemorations held between 2000 and 2003. Bart’s father, Gabriel, served in the 295th between 1944 and 1946, and has graciously provided the account featured below.



***Our next edition of History Facts
will feature the history of the
295th RCT's Miliciano shoulder insignia.***

Gabriel Soto Rivera

By Baltazar Soto

I interviewed my father last night [Sept. 4] and he told me the following:

“I reported to the 295th in 1944 in Panama as a Private. There we guarded prisoners, both enemy and American. We performed observation post duty at Fort Morgan and Camp Pina. I was in Panama for about seven months. During that time I was promoted to Corporal.

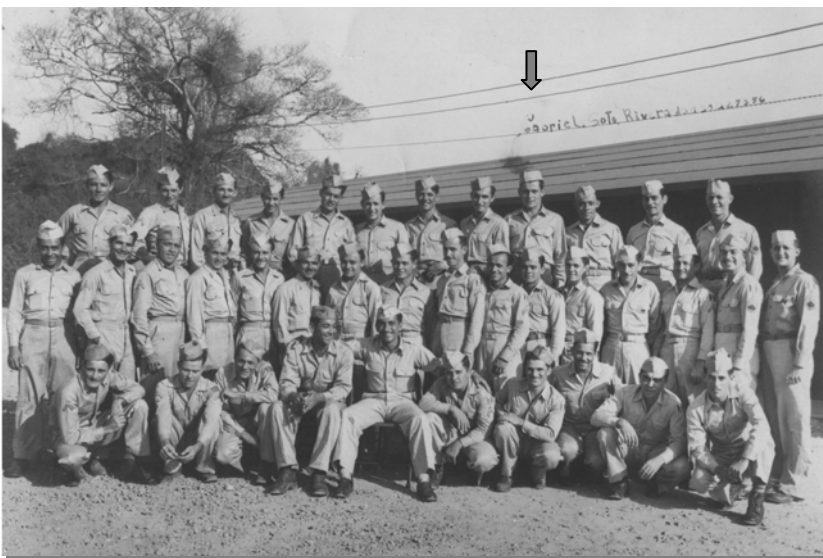
“C Company, 295th was sent to Ecuador and Peru. We provided MPs to these countries to support Army Air Corps (Air Force) bases in Salinas, Ecuador, and Talara, Peru.

“One of the Companies of the 295th was sent to the Galapagos for about a year. I escorted a prisoner (a soldier) from Ecuador to Galapagos, then on to Panama.

“In 1945, C Company returned to Panama, where a platoon of volunteers was selected for mustard gas experiments on the Island of San José. I was one of the volunteers. Soldiers were sent into the jungle wearing impregnated protective clothing, masks, and gloves. Animals were tied down to expose them to the gas. Aircraft delivered mustard gas to the area we were in. The gas soaked through my gloves and I was burned in the knuckles.

“When President Roosevelt died in April of 1945, the platoon was withdrawn from the mustard gas experiments to attend chapel service for the President.”

At the end of WWII my father was sent back to Puerto Rico, and ETSed in 1946 from Fort Buchanan.



Here is a picture of 2nd Platoon, C Company, 295th Infantry, taken in Panama during WWII in 1945. During WWII the 295th performed many missions in the Caribbean, Panama, Central, and South America. My father was a young Private (in the top row, the fourth man from the right). He wrote his name above himself. He was one of the soldiers who were gassed by mustard gas training. His platoon Leader, sitting in the center, first row, is 2nd Lt. Miranda. Gabriel Soto would love to hear from any of these soldiers who may still be alive. He is 80 years old now. (Photographer unknown)

Photo courtesy of Bart Soto

“The Commander of the 295th was COL Mauro García [Amaury Gandía] from Arecibo. C Company Commander was CPT Enrique Frontera.”

I hope this helps your soldiers understand a little more what the Regiment did in WWII and how the 295th is continuing the tradition of service to our nation.

See “Puerto Rico’s War Heroes” section for more on Gabriel Soto.

Baltazar “Bart” Soto Alicea is a 1976 graduate of the ROTC and the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. An Armor officer in the USAR, he is a Command and General Staff College graduate currently serving as Procurement Officer in FORSCOM. His articles have been published in several magazines as well as on the Internet.

Did you know that . . .

- the famed 10th Mountain Division was formed by an insurance broker named “Minnie”?

Sixty years ago, the U.S. Army embarked on a grand experiment to see if they could train soldiers to fight in the mountains, as German *Gebirgsjaegers*, Italian *Alpini*, and many other European “mountain” or “ski” troops did.

December 1941 saw the activation of the first U.S. mountain unit, the 87th Mountain Infantry Battalion – later Regiment – at Fort Lewis, Washington. The unit was dubbed “Minnie’s Ski Troops” in honor of New Yorker Charles Minot “Minnie” Dole, an insurance broker and president of the National Ski Patrol. (Dole had taken the initiative to form such a unit after the example of Finnish soldiers on skis annihilating two invading Russian tank battalions in 1939.) The 87th trained on, and braved, the cold of the 14,000-foot-high peak of Washington’s Mount Rainier and the Arctic fields before forming the core of a new division (comprised of the 85th, 86th and 87th Infantry regiments).

On November 6, 1944, the 10th Division was redesignated the 10th Mountain Division, with the blue-and-white “Mountain” tab authorized as well. The 10th was the last unit committed to the European Theater of Operations.

The 10th Mountain is currently stationed at Fort Drum, New York.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

September (1-30)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (2) Santiago, Ismael - HHC 1-295 | (13) Gomez, Miguel A. - D 1-295 |
| (4) Cuebas, Jonathan - 192 CS | (17) Fana, Jeffrey - D 1-295 |
| (4) Hernandez Cruz, Jose - 192 CS | (17) Santiago, Avelino - HHC 1-295 |
| (6) Claudio, Hipolito - HHC 1-295 | (19) Marquez, Ernesto - D 1-295 |
| (6) Ponce, Benjamin - HHC 1-295 | (21) Vazquez, Raul - A 1-295 |
| (7) Asencio Camacho, Luis - HHC 1-295 | (22) Viera, Juan - A 1-295 |
| (8) Galindo, Adalberto - A 1-295 | (23) Hernandez, Herbert - HHC 92 SIB |
| (8) Rodriguez, Henry - D 1-295 | (24) Morales, Armando - Trp E 192 |
| (10) Perez Garcia, Jose - A 1-295 | (26) Ayala, Nolbert - A 1-295 |
| (11) Cruz Claudio, Jose - HHC 1-295 | (27) Comas, Angel K. - HHC 1-296 |
| (12) Ramos, Luis J. - Trp E 192 | (29) Vera, Armando - HHC 1-295 |
| (13) Christian, Eugenio - Trp E 192 | (30) Rivera, Jorge - D 1-295 |
| (13) De Jesus, Adrian - HHC 1-295 | |

Congratulations!

Pa’ que tú lo sepas....

“¡Conque usted es la pequeña mujer que escribió el libro que comenzó esta gran guerra!” Con estas palabras el Presidente Abraham Lincoln recibió a la novelista Harriet Beecher-Stowe, autora de *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, en 1862. Tal había sido el impacto de esa obra (300,000 copias vendidas nacional e internacionalmente), que Lincoln se sostenía en su opinión de que la Guerra Civil jamás hubiese ocurrido de no ser por la publicación del libro. Un melodrama popular que le echó leña a la hoguera del tema de la esclavitud mundial, el libro, llamado por muchos como “propaganda abolicionista”, fue llamado por el escritor ruso Leo Tolstoy una gran obra literaria que “fluía del amor a Dios y al hombre”. En 1853, Beecher-Stowe publicó *A Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, en el que documentó las crudas realidades que sirvieron de base para su primer libro a la vez que refutaba las críticas de aquellos que trataron de cuestionar la autenticidad de *Uncle Tom’s*. Tres años más tarde, publicó una segunda novela “abolicionista”, *Dred*. Muchos estudiosos y pensadores concuerdan con Lincoln. Recientemente una revista literaria escogió los 20 libros más influyentes en la historia de Estados Unidos. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, publicado en 1852, por supuesto, es uno de ellos.

EL PENSADOR LIBRE

Contribuye el Sgto. Juan Ramón Fonseca
“El Filósofo de Santurce”

“Batatas”

En antaño lo conocíamos comúnmente como un noble alimento que muchas veces sació nuestra hambre; pero el progreso y el transcurrir de los años nos han enseñado que el término se aplica a algo más que una vianda. Hemos descubierto que podemos adjudicarle o añadirle a su definición significados personificados como “oportunistas” o, en el argot popular, “gansos.”

Tenemos el ejemplo de la famosa “batata” del gobierno, que se describe como aquella persona que cada cuatro años se une a un grupo con el único fin de buscarse beneficios personales. Es triste que ese pensar “batatero” esté tan presente en nuestro diario vivir, en la calle, en nuestro lugar de trabajo, etc. Y lo lamentable del caso es que aquellos que luchan por servirle a los demás de buena fe muchas veces obvian el rodearse de personas verdaderamente “preparadas” y bien intencionadas.

Podemos decir que las batatas son personas que por su corta y/o mediocre preparación académica dentro y fuera de lo secular caen en el fanatismo en su incesante búsqueda de sentirse importante.

Lo peor de todo es que muchos podemos pagar las consecuencias de estos titanes de la vida.

ANIMALES PARA ADOPCIÓN



Si Ud. o alguien que conoce desea adoptar animales, contacte al Sgto. Juan Ramón Fonseca, de la sección del S-1. El llamado Comisionado del Dominó tiene un rebaño de chivas, y apenas puede mantenerlo. Venga y escoja la que más le guste. Las hay de todos tamaños y colores, traviesas y juguetonas. Haga feliz a su hijo o hija con uno de estos bellos animales. Pero dése prisa, que el rebaño sigue creciendo. Llame al 1-800-7CHIVAS o visite cualquiera de nuestros albergues en Fort Bragg o A. P. Hill. *Gracias.*



Although a rigid pattern of racial segregation prevailed in the United States Army of yesteryear, a great number of individuals took and championed the challenge of serving with pride, displaying their skills and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation. These men and women usually fought two wars – one against a military enemy abroad and another of discrimination on both the home front and abroad. This series aims to honor those individuals and groups of all-Americans.

The Women's Army Corps

"Who will then do the cooking, the washing, the mending, the humble homey tasks to which every woman has devoted herself; who will nurture the children?"

ANONYMOUS CONGRESSMAN opposing the creation of the Women's Army Corps, 1943

The overall philosophy and purpose of the Women's Army Corps was to allow women to aid the American war effort directly and individually. The widespread philosophy was that women could best support the effort by performing noncombatant military jobs for which they were already trained. This allowed the Army to make the most efficient use of available labor, and free men to perform essential combat duties. Women's contributions would be widely heralded.

When Massachusetts Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers conceived the idea of creating an Army woman's corps in early 1941, "Never!" was the typical reaction to her idea. Who was to know that the Pearl Harbor attack in December would change that chauvinist way of thinking? Knowing it was the time to reap, Ms. Rogers met with Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall, who approved the idea, gladly. (After all, during World War I, the Navy had enlisted approximately 13,000 women to serve on active duty and fill clerical positions. The War Department had had a similar proceeding; but, instead of enlisting women, it hired them under civilian contract to serve as telephone operators and clerks with the American Expeditionary Forces in France. As were the efficient Navy "Yeomanettes" and "Marinettes, these groups of women disbanded after the war and returned home empty-handed, without the disability benefits or pensions available to male veterans. Ms. Rogers was determined that if women were to serve again with the Army in a wartime theater they would receive the same legal protection and benefits as their male counterparts.)

As public sentiment increasingly favored the idea of some form of a "women's corps," Army leaders decided to work with Rogers to devise and sponsor an organization that constituted the least threat to the Army's existing culture. Plain and simple, the Army did not want to accept women directly into its ranks – the existing Army Nurse Corps being the only exception. Rogers insisted on her belief that the women's corps should be a part of the Army so that women would receive equal pay, pension, and disability benefits.

Soon began the organization of Women's Auxiliary Army Corps recruiting drives and training centers. Fort Des Moines, Iowa, was selected as the site of the first WAAC training center. Applications for the WAAC training program were made available at Army recruiting stations on May 27, 1941, with a return deadline of June 4. Applicants had to be U.S. citizens between ages 21 and 45, with no dependents, be at least five feet tall, and 100 pounds or more in weight. Over 35,000 women from all over the country applied for less than 1,000 anticipated positions.

The first training class opened on July 20, with 440 women reporting for the six-week course. The average candidate was 25 years old, had attended college, and was working as an office administrator, executive secretary, or teacher. One out of every five had enlisted because a male member of her family was in the armed forces and she wanted to help him get home sooner. Some were combat widows of Pearl Harbor and Bataan.

The WAAC became such a success that the Army received more requests for WAACs than it could provide. Yet although they were desperately needed overseas, the Army could not offer them the protection if captured or the benefits if injured. The plans for an eventual Allied front in Europe required a substantially larger Army, with many more jobs available for women. The solution, partial at least, seemed to be the establishment of a Women's Army Corps with pay, privileges, and protection equal to that of men's.

While press and public discussed the merits of the WAAC, Congress opened hearings in March 1943 on the conversion of the WAAC into the Regular Army. In July, after a delay caused by congressional hearings on slander issues, the WAC bill was signed into law, and all WAACs were given a choice of joining the Army as a member of the WAC or returning to civilian life. Seventy-five percent decided to enlist as opposed to 25 percent who decided to leave the service.

Women returned home for various reasons. Some had family problems; others did not want to wear their uniform while off duty, as required of all members of the armed forces; and others simply had taken a dislike to group living and Army discipline. Those electing to leave also complained they had not been kept busy or that they had not felt needed in their jobs.

The WAC benefited women with temporary commissions when in a beginning women were neither commissioned nor enlisted personnel. Permanent commissions arrived in 1947, a year before women gained permanent military status. For years to come, the women in each armed forces branch would have a director to oversee their training and deployment, the WAC's being the last post to be abolished as women integrated into the Regular Army in 1978.

Further Readings:

Bellafaire, Judith A. *The Women's Army Corps: A Commemoration of World War II Service*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Morden, Bettie J. *The Women's Army Corps, 1945-1978*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2000.

Puerto Rico's War Heroes

"Puerto Ricans have sacrificed, suffered, and bled for this country and have every right to be proud of their military accomplishments."

Lieutenant Colonel Baltazar Soto Alicea
in letter to Luis Asencio Camacho
September 2003



Staff Sergeant Gabriel Soto Rivera

Duty, Honor and Country – The Puerto Rican Way

Gabriel was a private when he reported to Charlie 1st Battalion 295th Infantry in 1944, when the outfit was reactivated for deployment along the American Theater; but it only took him seven months to rise to corporal. While serving in Panama, his company received orders for Ecuador and Peru, to provide MP support to Army Air Corps (eventually, Air Force) bases there. Gabriel returned to Panama in 1945; he had just escorted a prisoner from Ecuador to Galapagos, then on to Panama when he learned that the U.S. Army was looking for a platoon of volunteers to participate in a series of experiments involving chemical weapons, namely mustard gas. He volunteered, and was one of several who were burned. As he recalls, the gas soaked through his gloves and burned his hands. He was fortunate, nevertheless; one fellow soldier was hospitalized. The sudden passing of President Roosevelt in April saw the platoon's withdrawal from the experiments to attend memorial services for the President. Gabriel returned to Puerto Rico at the end of the war, and ETS'd in 1946, from Fort Buchanan. The war in Korea soon found him back to duty and serving briefly with the 65th "Borinqueneers." Once again he answered the call during Vietnam, where he served with the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Infantry's 1st Battalion and received the Purple Heart. Bart, his son, says, "Because his English had a heavy PR accent, he never was promoted beyond E-6, although in combat he served as Platoon Sergeant." Gabriel retired shortly after his tour in Vietnam. He received the Korean War Service Medal from the Vice Consul of the Republic of Korea during a December 2002 ceremony in Atlanta. At eighty, he still wears his Purple Heart to church, where he serves as an usher.

[Special thanks go to Bart Soto]



John D. Porterfield, Jr.

Martyr

When Colonel Chester De Gavre, Regimental Commander of the 65th, learned of George Company's withdrawal from Hill 391 (Jackson Heights), he quickly ordered 1st Lieutenant Porterfield's Able Company be placed under the operational control of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Betances' 2nd Battalion for a counterattack to regain the hill. Porterfield's company was to be used for the attack phase only while another company attacked and manned the outpost. October 28, 1952 dawned over Korea when the companies launched their attack upon Jackson Heights under heavy Chinese resistance. By midmorning, the outpost was rid of Chinese, and the operation seemed to go well in hand, until late afternoon, when renewed Chinese artillery clobbered the hill, scoring a devastating hit on Able's Command Post, taking a few casualties with it. Porterfield, a well liked, respected and inspiring leader, was one of those casualties. He was awarded the Bronze Star and promoted to Captain, posthumously. He is survived by two children, one of whom recently championed the Silver Star for the man who was Porterfield's battalion commander then, the late Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Betances.



Colonel Carlos Fernando Chardón (1907-1981)

"A Mi El 295"

Colonel Chardón commanded the 295th from 1951 to 1958. A natural leader endowed with an encyclopedic knowledge, he was regarded as an epitome of the aphoristic "officer and a gentleman." Unsurprisingly, he is responsible for coining the inspiring fraternal call of "A Mi el 295" (295th To Me), a phrase with a historical background. In the days when infantry regiments marched to the battleground preceded by their colors, there was no graver event than their falling into enemy hands. That is why when the colors risked such fate, the color bearer signaled his unit to close ranks around the colors. Chardón regarded the signal as one of honored belonging to the regiment, hence his insisting on the use of "A Mi el 295" to distinguish the 295th members from other National Guard comrades.